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stroy the dream of freedom in their hearts, cannot survive amidst the strength of those who, against all odds, will continue to fight. The South African Government must realize that might alone will fail to stop the inevitable changes that must take place in South Africa.

More than any other country in the world, the United States has a special commitment and responsibility to help foster peace and social justice in the world. Our history, our values, our principles, and our goals as a nation compel us to stand as a beacon of freedom to the world's oppressed. We in the United States are the fortunate ones. We expect, as a matter of course, to travel freely, to voice our opinions, to determine the leadership of our Government, to worship in the manner we choose, to have access to a free flow of information, and to have the chance to pursue a productive and fulfilling life. And everywhere in the world literally thousands of people are being persecuted.

All of us, as U.S. citizens, as people who have compassion for others and who cherish and uphold the principle of individual dignity and worth, must continue more vigorously to speak out openly and forcefully to those who continue to pawn and sacrifice human beings. International Human Rights Day reminds us of our Nation's firm commitment to foster respect for human rights in the world, and calls us to action.●

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, Human Rights Day, I would like to express my deep concern over the tragic suffering of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which was invaded and occupied by Indonesia just over 7 years ago and continues to be subjected to an illegal Indonesian military occupation. Amnesty International recently pointed out in a letter to the New York Times that the Indonesian occupation of East Timor is characterized by "extraordinary brutality."

But American awareness of the East Timor tragedy is growing. And along with this awareness is the correct perception that the Indonesian occupation of East Timor is no less illegal and immoral than, for example, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. And as in Afghanistan, a just solution guaranteeing the right to self-determination for the people of East Timor, even if it cannot be found immediately, must be achieved eventually.

Indonesia bears prime responsibility for the East Timor tragedy and it is Indonesia that must be convinced to come to the negotiating table before a solution can be achieved. As I pointed out in an article I wrote for the Progressive magazine 2 years ago, the United States also bears heavy responsibility for the Timor situation, through the arms we have supplied to Indonesia and the diplomatic support that successive administrations have provided for the Indonesian position.

But Portugal, the colonial ruler of East Timor until it abandoned the territory in 1975, has an especially heavy moral responsibility to the East Timorese. On December 14, the current Portuguese Prime Minister, Dr. Francisco Pinto Balsemao, will meet in Washington with President Reagan, and I understand that the Portuguese leader plans to discuss the East Timor issue.

It is to be hoped that Portugal will carry out an energetic diplomatic campaign, both in Washington and throughout the world, in an effort to find an equitable solution to a continuing conflict that already has claimed many tens of thousands of lives and caused untold human suffering.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to insert for the RECORD Amnesty International's recent letter to the New York Times:

"EXTRAORDINARY BRUTALITY" IN EAST TIMOR

To the EDITOR:

In an Oct. 14 news article, "Indonesia Defends Role in East Timor," Foreign Minister Kusumaatmadja is cited as saying that reports of human-rights abuses against residents of East Timor are "untrue."

Amnesty International has followed the human-rights situation in East Timor since the territory was invaded by Indonesia forces in December 1975, and we find the Foreign Minister's comment disturbing.

It has been evident to Amnesty International in investigating the situation in East Timor that human-rights violations occur there within the context of an occupation of extraordinary brutality in which a whole right of fundamental human rights have been denied the population.

We believe that the population of East Timor has been systematically denied the rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly and movement. Persons exercising their right to petition the government for redress of grievances have been arbitrarily detained. Movement and communication within and beyond East Timor has been tightly controlled.

We are also disturbed by the Indonesians' failure to investigate a number of cases of human-rights violations in East Timor.

One case involved "Operation Fence of Legs." Undertaken by Indonesian forces from July to September of 1981 with the aim of eliminating Fretilin forces (the movement for an independent East Timor which resisted the Indonesian invasion), its strategy was to deploy tens of thousands of Timorese to form human fences that converged on and flushed out remaining Fretilin forces.

Reports indicated that civilians enlisted for this operation were required to advance in front of Indonesian forces and were unarmed or armed only with primitive weapons. While it is not possible to gauge the number killed in the operation, it is clear that many did not return to their homes.

We also received extensive reports of torture of detainees during interrogation. Forms of torture described in those accounts include burning with red-hot irons and cigarettes, electric shocks to the genitals and other parts of the body, extraction of finger and toe nails with pliers and slashing with knives.

We have raised these concerns with the Indonesian Government. So far there has been no response.

LARRY COX,
Deputy Director, Communications, Amnesty International.

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